



Importation Process of POV's into the United Kingdom



Vehicle Importation

Service members are authorized to import one vehicle on orders for him or herself when assigned to the United Kingdom. A second vehicle can be imported commercially for a spouse. There are certain procedures that must be followed to get a vehicle properly registered.



Collecting Your Car

Once your car arrives in the UK you will need to contact Pass and ID to obtain a C&E941 form, 'Request for Delivery of a Motor Vehicle Without Payment of Duty, Value Added and Car Tax.' This is commonly known as the 'Pink Form' as it must be on pink paper to be valid. You will need your orders, ID card and stateside title or registration to get this form. Once you receive the Pink Forms you need to get them to your importer to obtain Customs Clearance for the car.



Light Conversion

All vehicles imported to the UK must have a light conversion prior to being inspected or it will not pass the inspection. Depending on the design of the car by the manufacturer some of the items required are already in place. Items not meeting standards must be altered. The items checked and converted are listed on the next slides:



Lighting Requirements

- Position (Parking) Lights must be white
- Front turn signals must be amber and 21 watt
- Headlamp aim including right hand 'kick-off' must be between 1.25% and 2% dip
- Side Repeaters (from front turn signals) must be clearly visible at roughly arms length from the rear bumper



Lighting Requirements (Con't)

- Rear turn signals must be amber
- High visibility red rear fog lamp
- 'Tell tale' switch for rear fog lamp within driver view



MOT or SVA?

All vehicles will require an inspection before they can be registered with the DVLA. It will be either an MOT or an SVA. An SVA is a one-time inspection required on all vehicles that are brand new to 36 months old. An MOT is required **annually** on **all** vehicles in the UK once they reach three years of age. You are not notified when your inspection is due. It is your responsibility to know when your inspection is due and arrange to have



The SVA Inspection Stamp

For practical purposes the MOT and SVA inspections for Visiting Forces are the same. The test certificate is the same. The sole difference is cars less than 3 years old will have an additional stamp on the form stating it is a Visiting Forces vehicle. Only certain local facilities have this stamp. If your car is less than three years old then you must ask if the garage has this stamp. Most facilities close to RAF Lakenheath and Mildenhall are authorized to do



The MOT

The MOT is a complete comprehensive bumper-to-bumper assessment of a vehicle to ensure it is deemed roadworthy for use in the UK. It takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. It checks all aspects of a motor vehicle to include structure, steering and suspension components, tires, lights, wipers, emissions, etc. Some vehicles will fail this test. In the event of a failure the inspector will go over why the vehicle did not pass and point you in the right direction to get the



Registering Your POV

Once your car has passed it's MOT / SVA you must get it registered. You need to bring the following documents to Pass and ID:

- Stateside Registration or Title
- ORIGINAL Certificate of UK Motor Insurance (Copies or FAXes will be rejected)
- Orders assigning you to the UK
- MOT / SVA paperwork



Registering Your POV (Con't)

Once you have submitted your paperwork with Pass and ID it takes one to two weeks turn-around time to get your package back. Pass and ID will contact you once they receive it.

You will receive all your original documents, Road Tax disc and authorization to have your number plates made. Local facilities are available to have the plates made. It takes one business day. Your V5, UK Registration Certificate (UK title) will



'30 Day Rule'

Pass and ID will issue a 30 day temporary pass for your POV provided it has license plates. Vehicles without plates must not be driven until the UK registration is complete. The UK government has a one calendar month rule. If you cannot complete the process within the month you collect the vehicle, payment equal to one months road tax will be required for each month the vehicle has not applied to have been registered. The free road tax disc issued will have an expiry date



Concession' Versus 'Tax-Paid'

Imported vehicles are classed as either 'Concession' (Tax-free) or 'Tax-Paid' (V.A.T. has been paid). Concession vehicles receive a free tax disc for the first year under UK rules. They can be sold on to other persons authorized a tax-free vehicle without duty. If you think you may wish to sell your car on to a UK National (ie: American muscle cars, American trucks, etc.) there will be a duty levied on the vehicle by H.M. Customs and Excise for which the



Concession' Versus 'Tax-Paid' (Con't)

You must provide the registration and insurance documentation of your POV outside the EU for at least 6 months prior to importation to have the option of declining the free Road Tax disc in exchange for obtaining the 'Tax-Paid' status without any duty being levied. You must ask the Pass and ID clerk for this option. You must wait one year and the Concession restriction will be removed automatically from your vehicle. You will then be allowed to sell your vehicle to a UK National as if the duty has been paid on the POV. A new V5 with the Concession restriction removed will be sent to you by the DVLA.



Summary

The importation process for POV's into the UK is very different from most stateside registration procedures and more complex. Provided you follow the steps in order (obtain/process the 'Pink Form', collect the car, get the lights converted, get the MOT / SVA then contact Pass and ID with the proper paperwork) the process should go smoothly. Your sponsor should be able to assist you in getting this accomplished if you need further